

MANSFIELD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

**100 Port Murray Road
Port Murray , NJ 07865**

Meeting Minutes
June 13, 2019

The June 13, 2019 meeting of the Mansfield Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chair Paul Tarlowe, held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1976, followed by a Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Present were Paul Tarlowe, Robert Jewell, Marin Martin, Glenn Todd, Dawn Smith, Cathy Todd and Michael Misertino.

Minutes

Mr. Paul Tarlowe deferred approval of minutes from May 9, 2019 to the next meeting as revisions were requested of three commissioners.

Mail

May 7, 2019 Correspondence - Single Family Dwelling & Associated Improvements, Block 202, Lot 7.01 (Former Mount Bethel Ski Hill). Correspondence received and reviewed. In summation, the correspondence indicated that the project was deemed exempt from the provisions of the Highlands rules, subject to conditions outlined in the letter received May 7, 2019 from Patricia Cluelow, Division of Land Use Regulation. The Environment Commission acknowledged receipt with no further comments.

May 20, 2019 Correspondence – Letter of Transmittal from NJDEP Response Action Outcome (RAO) Package from Partner Engineering and Sciences indicating remediation completed at the Mansfield Elementary School for an incident reported in 2017. Some discussion ensued regarding the renovations that were completed at the school over the past few years.

Committee Reports

ANJEC 2019 GRANT – Solitary Bee Education and Community Propagation Network Proposal

The Environmental Commission was awarded the grant in the amount of \$1,070 in May. Grant letter of acceptance was signed by Marin Martin and Paul Tarlowe and returned to ANJEC. The finance office assembled the Resolution of Acceptance of the grant on behalf of the Environmental Commission which was approved at the June 12, 2019 Township Committee meeting.

Grant includes an intracommunity event that has already begun to be promoted. Paul Tarlowe confirmed speaker, biologist Rob Somes, will be available to present at the event.

The event is scheduled for June 22, 2019 at 11 a.m. at the Pequest Trout Hatchery (605 Pequest Rd., Oxford, NJ 07863) and is open to the public with registration required. One person has registered to date. Additional promotion will be conducted through the township media vehicles as well as a request to promote via the Mansfield Elementary school. Marin Martin, Paul Tarlowe and Dawn Smith will reach out to community

organizations, neighboring Environmental Commissions and utilize social media to raise awareness of the event.

Marin Martin will coordinate the receipt of the bee nest boxes and study tracking stickers in the hope to be available for the June 22 event. Dawn Smith will coordinate the receipt of the pollinator seed packets appropriate for the region in the hope for same.

Marin Martin presented sign in sheet and volunteer form for use at the event.

A follow up field event is tentatively planned for July 13th (rain date July 14th) where volunteers will meet at the park to obtain bee nest boxes for installation in pre-approved properties. Marin Martin will obtain a list of township-owned properties, Paul Tarlowe will request permission placement at the Pequest Trout Hatchery. Dawn Smith will reach out to the county for permission on other properties in and around Mansfield Township.

Cafferata Park **Bluebird Trail**

Ms. Smith reported that the bluebird trail has activity in all seven nest boxes. Due to severe thunderstorms, the planned bird banding event in May was cancelled. Another event has not been scheduled. Three families have been dedicated to reporting data and maintaining the nest boxes installed at the trail. Certificates of participation will be issued to the student volunteers at the end of the season based on online data capture for nest box monitoring project.

EC Event – **Mushroom Growing Primer (edible mushrooms)**

In follow up to a previous recommendation from Mr. McMekin and approval of a budget item to support the event, a Mushroom Growing Primer activity will be hosted by Jim McMekin and the Environmental Commission on Saturday, October 5 at Cafferata Park. The event will be about 60 to 90 minutes long and can accommodate up to 20 participants. Mr. Jewell will be contributing supplies as well as Mr. McMekin for the medium and spores for growing the mushrooms. Types of mushrooms that will be considered for the event include wine caps, oyster, and shitake. Budget will be utilized to obtain supply of spores from Field & Forest Products. Educational videos hosted by supplier should also be considered to use in promotion of event. Mr. McMekin will be delivering the primer and assisting with hands on activities.

Committee Updates

Mr. Jewell indicated that the application for the site plan and approved use of the Columbia Too property will need to be resubmitted and heard by the Land Use Board. It is expected that the revised proposal may expand the prior existing/non-conforming junk yard use. It was mentioned that there was a proposed expanded use beyond storage of drained vehicles only and an expanded use of land up to 50 acres from original 24 acres. Also proposed was the introduction of storing “undrained” fleet vehicles for auction. Use limitations may be desired. Significant terracing and storm water management will need to be planned as well as proposed screening for the east side of the property that is visible to travelers and homeowners via Watters and Washburn Roads.

Mr. Jewell mentioned that the NJ DEP is expected to propose a model ordinance to curb use of “dirty dirt”.

Ms. Martin indicated that ANJEC is hosting an event July 23 at 7 p.m. to take place at the Lambertville House, Lambertville, NJ on the topic of “ditching disposables”. This event is free to Environmental Commission members and a suggested fee of \$10 for general public attendance.

Ms. Martin indicated that plastic bag ban is awaiting vote in New Jersey while local ordinances are becoming more popular in New Jersey municipalities many of which have been implemented in Atlantic County.

Mr. Todd indicated that restoration of the Mt. Bethel Methodist Church continues and that the Open Space Committee has applied for additional grant funding via the Warren County Municipal Charitable Trust Fund. Mr. Jewell noted that work has been restarted on the restoration of the windows. Ms. Smith indicated that the Mansfield Department of Public Works cleared brush and trees near the fence behind the cemetery that runs along Snyder Road.

Mr. Tarlowe MOVED to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Smith, Environmental Commissioner

Next meeting date:
July 11, 2019